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CLAIMS

1. A portable electronic device, comprising:

- an electronic circuit capable of storing data therein, capable of processing data, and capable of data input and output;
- a control device operatively linked to said electronic circuit, with an invariable activation command being issued when said control device is selectively triggered;
- a user interface device operatively linked to said electronic circuit;
- a data transceiver operatively linked to said electronic circuit, said data transceiver being for exchanging data between said electronic circuit and an external data exchange device, and for receiving a selectively emitted activation cue from a source external to said portable electronic device;
- a data conveyance switching element operatively linked to said electronic circuit, said switching element being in an activated state upon an activation cue having been received by said data transceiver, and being in an inactive state when no activation cue was received by said data transceiver;

and

- power means for providing power to said portable electronic device;

wherein upon said control device being selectively triggered to issue said invariable activation command:

- if said switching element is in said activated state, a data exchange will be initiated through the instrumentality of said data transceiver for exchanging data between said electronic circuit and an external data exchange device;
- if said switching element is in said inactive state, data will be conveyed from said electronic circuit to said user interface device for communicating information to the portable electronic device holder.

2. A portable electronic device as defined in claim 1,
wherein said user interface device is a display screen.30 3. A portable electronic device as defined in claim 1,
wherein said data transceiver comprises a data transmitter, a data receiver distinct from said data transmitter, and a cue receiver distinct from said data receiver.

4. A portable electronic device as defined in claim 1,
wherein said control device is a biometric parameter detector.
5. 5. A portable electronic device as defined in claim 4,
wherein said biometric parameter detector is a fingerprint scanner capable of obtaining a
fingerprint scan, and whereby said control device is triggered when the fingerprint scan matches
a fingerprint image pre-saved in said electronic circuit.
- 10 6. A portable electronic device as defined in claim 1,
wherein said control device is a manually activated button, and whereby said control device is
triggered when the button is pressed.
- 15 7. A portable electronic device as defined in claim 1,
wherein said electronic circuit comprises said switching element.
8. A portable electronic device as defined in claim 7,
wherein said electronic circuit comprises a microchip, and wherein said switching element is a
series of instructions programmed onto said microchip.
- 20 9. A portable electronic device as defined in claim 1,
wherein said switching element comprises a logical circuit.
10. A data exchange system comprising :
25 - a data exchange device comprising a first electronic circuit, a first data transceiver and a cue
emitter; and
- a portable electronic device, comprising:
- a second electronic circuit capable of storing data therein, capable of processing
data, and capable of data input and output;
- a control device operatively linked to said second electronic circuit, with an
invariable activation command being issued when said control device is
selectively triggered;
- a user interface device operatively linked to said second electronic circuit;

- 5 - a second data transceiver operatively linked to said second electronic circuit;
- a data conveyance switching element operatively linked to said second electronic circuit, said switching element being in an activated state upon an activation cue having been received by said second data transceiver, and being in an inactive state when no activation cue was received by said second data transceiver;

and

- power means for providing power to said portable electronic device; wherein upon said control device being selectively triggered to issue said invariable activation command:
- 10 - if said switching element is in its activated state, a data exchange will occur between said first data transceiver and said second data transceiver, thereby exchanging data between said data exchange device and said portable electronic device;
- if said switching element is in its inactive state, data is forwarded to said user interface device for communicating information to the portable electronic device holder.

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11. A portable electronic device comprising:

- an electronic circuit capable of storing data therein, capable of processing data, and capable of data input and output;
- a control device operatively linked to said electronic circuit, with an invariable activation command being issued when said control device is selectively triggered;
- 20 - first and second data conveyance functions programmed in said electronic circuit;
- a cue receiver for receiving a selectively emitted activation cue from a source external to said portable electronic device; and
- power means, for providing power to said portable electronic device; wherein upon said control device being selectively triggered to issue said invariable activation command, said electronic circuit will accomplish said first data conveyance function if an activation cue was received by said cue receiver and said second data conveyance function if no cue was received by said cue receiver.

- 25 12. A method for data exchange with a portable electronic device of the type comprising: an electronic circuit capable of storing data therein, capable of processing data, and capable of data input and output, a control device operatively linked to said circuit, a user interface device operatively linked to said circuit, communication ports operatively linked to said

circuit, a switching element operatively linked to said electronic circuit and being in a default inactive state, and power means for providing power to said portable electronic device, said method comprising the steps of :

- awaiting for an activation cue to be received at a predetermined one of said communication ports;
- if an activation cue is received at one of said communication ports, changing the state of said switching element from its default inactive state to an activated state; and
- selectively triggering said control device to issue an invariable activation command, whereby said method will further comprise one of the two following steps:
 - if said switching element is in its activated state, initiating a data exchange with an external data exchange device through at least one of said communication ports; and
 - if said switching element is in its inactive state, conveying data from said electronic circuit to said user interface device for communicating information to the portable electronic device holder.

13. A method as defined in claim 12,

wherein said activation cue is received at one of said communication ports distinct from another one of said communication ports used for data exchange with the external data exchange device.

14. A method as defined in claim 12,

wherein the additional following step occurs after selectively triggering said control device if said switching element is in said activated state:

- conveying data from said electronic circuit to said user interface device for communicating information to the portable electronic device holder.